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Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load

Comment On: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0001

Clean Water Act Section 303(d): Notice for the Public Review of the Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay

Document: EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736-0127

Comment submitted by H. W. Ellerson

Submitter Information

Submitter's Representative: H. Watkins Ellerson

General Comment

October 28, 2010 1:02 PM EDT

RE: #EPA-R03-OW-2010-0736

I am responding pursuant to request from the Va. Agribusiness Council (VAC) via Farm Credit of Virginias, to which I am indebted as a mortgagor. I live on 50 acres in western Goochland County, Va. Farm Credit forwarded the VAC "Talking Points" which are rather vague in their assertions.

I fully support the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay by any means necessary, as the Bay is now a toilet and has been used as such by agribusiness for the better part of two centuries. VAC complains that proposed regulations would impose an undue burden on currently strapped agribusinesses, but when times were flush, this constituency was mostly indifferent to the pollution it was causing, so its complaints of financial impairment are ill-timed. I lived on a dairy farm for 3 years and have lived in rural areas

since 1973, so I have witnessed a lot of what is going on.

VAC whines about a lack of subsidy for agribusiness to enable it to do the "right thing," but other businesses must comply without receiving taxpayer subsidies. Agribusiness is excessively subsidized in several dimensions, in my opinion, and should instead pay its own way.

The Chesapeake Bay needs to be cleaned up now, and agribusiness needs to step up to the plate and do its part.

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